



Department of Medical Assistance Services
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Richmond, Virginia 23219

www.dmas.virginia.gov

MEDICAID MEMO & MEDICAID PROVIDER MANUAL UPDATE

TO: All Medical Doctors, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives, Hospitals, Outpatient Health Facilities, Nursing Homes, Mental Health Providers, Health Departments, Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) Participating in the Virginia Medical Assistance Program

FROM: Patrick W. Finnerty, Director
Department of Medical Assistance Services

MEMO: Special/Update

DATE: 2/20/2008

SUBJECT: Changes to Physician Assistant Supervision Requirements – Effective Immediately

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform providers of changes to the supervision requirements for Physician Assistants who provide services to clients enrolled in the Fee-For-Service Virginia Medicaid program. Effective immediately, Physician Assistants will no longer have to meet the “direct and personal” physician supervision requirement defined in the Medicaid Physician and Hospital Manuals.

Direct and personal supervision was defined in the Department of Medical Assistance Services’ (DMAS) Physician and Hospital Manuals as supervision rendered by a physician at the site of treatment. This requirement is a higher standard of supervision than what is currently required in state regulations governing the practice of Physician Assistants by the Virginia Board of Medicine. With this policy change, DMAS will only require Physician Assistants to conform to the Virginia Board of Medicine regulations that govern how they are to be supervised by the responsible physician.

The “direct and personal” supervisory requirement has been eliminated where it is not otherwise required under Virginia law or regulation. An exception regarding direct supervision is found, however, in Section 54.1 - 2952 of the Code of Virginia, as it applies to the additional supervisory and oversight requirements placed on Physician Assistants in hospitals and emergency departments of hospitals. As a result, DMAS has included the following language in our Physician Manual that stresses these requirements and the fact that Physician Assistants must adhere to them:

“The practice standards of Physician’s Assistants in Hospitals and the Emergency Departments of Hospitals are specifically addressed in the Code of Virginia § 54.1-2952, as amended. These practice standards are unique to these settings. DMAS policy conforms with the standards stipulated in State law regarding the provision of care in a Hospital setting by Physician’s Assistants. Additionally, DMAS requires that the patient’s medical record must be documented sufficiently to clearly show that these unique practice standards have been met.”

All relevant Medicaid Manuals have been changed to reflect this policy decision. The revisions to the Physician and Hospital Manuals are listed at the end of this memo, and please review these changes carefully.

This policy change does not impact the current enrollment and practice requirements that Medicaid Managed Care Organizations place on their enrolled Physician Assistant providers.

MEDICAID ENROLLMENT STATUS OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

DMAS does not directly enroll Physician Assistants in the Virginia Medicaid Program, but allows Physician Assistants to bill for Medicaid covered services within their scope of practice through their supervising Physician’s National Provider Identifier, as long as the Physician is enrolled in the Virginia Medicaid program.

This policy has not changed the requirement which stipulates that Physician Assistants who render services to Medicaid clients must continue to bill under their supervising physician’s national provider identifier. DMAS has not changed the covered services for which Physician Assistants are authorized to bill and receive reimbursement.

ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option (ARS) to access information regarding Medicaid or FAMIS eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber identification. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 1-800-884-9730 or 1-800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.

“HELPLINE”

The “HELPLINE” is available to answer questions Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on state holidays. The “HELPLINE” numbers are:

1-804-786-6273	Richmond area and out-of-state long distance
1-800-552-8627	All other areas (in-state, toll-free long distance)

Please remember that the “HELPLINE” is for provider use only. Please have your Medicaid Provider Identification Number available when you call.

Attached Number of Pages: (1)

**PHYSICIAN & HOSPITAL MANUALS
REVISION CHART
January 11, 2008**

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

PHYSICIAN MANUAL

MANUAL SECTION	MATERIAL REVISED	NEW PAGE NUMBER(S)	REVISED PAGE(S)	REVISION DATE
Chapter IV	Chapter IV		Entire Chapter	1/11/2008

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

MANUAL SECTION	DISCARD	INSERT	OTHER INSTRUCTIONS
Chapter IV	Old Chapter IV	New Chapter IV	

HOSPITAL MANUAL

MANUAL SECTION	MATERIAL REVISED	NEW PAGE NUMBER(S)	REVISED PAGE(S)	REVISION DATE
Chapter IV	Chapter IV		Entire Chapter	1/11/2008

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